



**USAID**  
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



# KENYA

## EDUCATION AND YOUTH

As the responsibility for leadership passes to the next generation, Africa's future and its global competitiveness will be driven by academically gifted and entrepreneurial young people empowered to lead. USAID is providing state-of-the-art education to millions of Kenyan children, expanding educational and employment opportunities for young adults, and preparing a new generation of young African leaders with the skills and mindset to transform the region and the continent.

### EARLY-GRADE READING

Reading is a fundamental skill that lays the foundation for all future learning. USAID and the Kenyan Ministry of Education co-fund and jointly implement the flagship Tusome ("Let's Read" in Kiswahili) Early Grade Reading program in all 22,952 public primary schools and over 1,500 low-cost private schools across Kenya. Tusome has trained over 77,000 teachers to provide improved reading instruction to over 7.8 million learners, including learners with disabilities. Teachers and learners are using over 26 million new Tusome textbooks and learning materials to improve reading outcomes in the early primary grades. Tusome developed distance learning materials for students, families, and teachers to ensure continued access to learning when schools closed for nine months during the COVID-19 pandemic. Tusome also developed an online monitoring and evaluation system to track real-time teaching and learning data, which provided critical feedback to teachers across the country and helped them improve classroom instruction and accountability across the education system. Through Tusome, Kenya is producing a new generation of learners reading at higher levels of fluency and comprehension than ever before.

### YOUTH WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Young people in Kenya face high unemployment, limited social and economic opportunities, and major challenges to their overall well-being. Youth, especially marginalized adolescent girls, lack agency and empowerment, further contributing to their feeling vulnerable and left behind. To address those complex development issues, USAID's youth programming targets key growth sectors and develops skills that boost the competitiveness of young people for jobs, while also promoting their social wellbeing. Through the USAID Empowered Youth activity, the Mission supports innovative and sustainable strategies, partnerships, and youth-led approaches to improving youth economic

prospects, increasing youth access to and utilization of social and economic services, and connecting youth with each other. The activity supports a case management approach to reducing chronic vulnerability among marginalized youth and actively seeks to strengthen linkages between U.S. and Kenyan universities, TVET institutions, private sector partners, and local government to better align technical and vocational education and training to complementary investments, employment opportunities, and entrepreneurship resources. It provides small grants to start or expand youth-led businesses and scale youth-run enterprises that employ and empower youth.

## YOUTH LEADERSHIP

The Young African Leaders Initiative (YALI) supports youth to drive growth and prosperity, strengthen democratic governance, and enhance peace and security across Africa. There are three YALI programs in Kenya and East Africa. The **Mandela Washington Fellowship** provides support to young African leaders through training and coursework at 40 U.S. universities, enabling thousands of young Africans to make a difference and lead a new generation in their home countries. The **YALI Regional Leadership Center for East Africa** at Kenyatta University in Nairobi has trained over 4,300 young leaders from 14 East and Central African countries in business and entrepreneurship, civic leadership, and public management with an eye toward regional networking and collaboration. The **YALI Network**, with 500,000 members continent-wide, provides online courses and a forum to equip young leaders with 21<sup>st</sup> century skills to transform their communities.

### KEY GOVERNMENT OF KENYA PARTNERS

Ministry of Education  
Ministry of Industrialization

### EDUCATIONAL PARTNERS

Kenya Institute of Curriculum Development  
Kenya National Examinations Council  
Kenyatta University  
Teachers Service Commission

### PRIVATE SECTOR PARTNERS

Deloitte East Africa  
MasterCard Foundation

### IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS

Deloitte East Africa  
Michigan State University  
RTI International

### ACHIEVEMENTS SNAPSHOT (2021)

- Collaborated with the MOE to design and produce 389 distance learning lessons for students during the pandemic school closure period.
- Strengthened local capacity to transition from YALI in-person training to online training, reaching 394 young African leaders.

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